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March 15, 2006

Support Millender-McDonald Amendment to provide funds to rebuild the election infrastructure of the Gulf States.

Dear Colleague:

I ask for you to support my amendment to the emergency supplemental appropriations act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, HR 4939. My amendment is a simple one - it merely provides an additional \$50 million to FEMA so that they can repair and replace the election infrastructure in the states affected by Hurricanes Rita and Katrina.

On August 29, 2005, the world watched in horror as the Gulf States were crushed by one of the worst hurricanes in our nation's history. Hurricane Katrina destroyed life in the Gulf States as we know it, and to our dismay, a few weeks later Hurricane Rita cut a path of devastation along the Texas-Louisiana coast.

The victims residing in the Gulf Coast states have witnessed entire towns and cities demolished by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In some locations, these hurricanes wiped out the entire infrastructure necessary for citizens to vote. It may be years before the Gulf States start to resemble the great area they once were before these storms plowed through the region.

My amendment would provide funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Stafford Act. FEMA would provide these funds to the states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita to rebuild the necessary infrastructure to conduct federal elections. The Gulf States need these crucial resources to re-establish voter registration lists, restore and replace voting equipment, and reconstruct destroyed polling stations that must be made fully accessible to those with disabilities.

This amendment is not a blank check. States would have to submit detailed plans for reimbursement to FEMA before receiving funding.

If we can fund emerging democracies in Iraq and Afghanistan, we can certainly pay for restoring democracy here at home.

I would urge you to join me in protecting the rights of the Katrina and Rita survivors by supporting my amendment.

Sincerely yours,



Juanita Millender-McDonald
Ranking Member
Committee on House Administration